Damage to irrigation sources.

South Arcot district : Six irrigation tanks in Villupuram taluk, six in Vridhachalam taluk, nine in Tirukoilur taluk, three in Kallakurichi taluk and one in Cuddalore taluk are reported to have breached. Prompt steps were taken to close the breaches in the minor irrigation tanks with the assistance of the villagers and the Revenue and Development Officers. In respect of the P.W.D. tanks, necessary action was taken by the officers of that department. It is reported that no damages were caused to houses, crops, human lives and cattle due to the breaches.

Thanjavur district.—There were breaches in Samudram Eri, Kannanar river and river Nandalar in Thanjavur district, but there was no damage to the crops due to the breaches as the water completely drained seen after the closure of the breaches.

Relief measures.—The question of giving relief by way of grant of loan as indicated below to the owners of plantain and betelvine garden is being examined by the Government :—

(i) grant of loss of Rs. 200 per acre to the owners of plantain garden where the damage to the plantain is 50 per cent and more. The loan to be recovered in four equal annual instalments;

(ii) grant of loan of Rs. 500 per acre to the owners of betelvine garden whose crops have been damaged to enable them to recultivate the damaged extent. The loan to be recovered in four equal annual instalments.

The question of granting relief by way of loan to the sugarcane growers in South Arcot district is also under the consideration of the Government. The Collector has been asked to furnish certain particulars. On receipt of the particulars, orders will be passed. The grant of remission of land revenue or water-cess on paddy, plantain, betelvine and sugarcane crops which have been damaged is also being examined by the Government and full particulars have been called for from the Collectors of South Arcot and Thanjavur. On receipt of the particulars, orders will be passed granting relief to the extent necessary.

I may therefore inform the House that all possible efforts have been taken to give relief to the ryots affected by the cyclone wherever necessary.

VI.—ANNOUNCEMENTS.

(1) Election to Madras Land Improvement Board

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have to announce that three nominations for election to the Madras Land Improvement Board have been received. As the number of candidates duly nominated

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is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, viz., THREE, I declare the following three candidates to have been duly elected to the Madras Land Improvement Board :—

1. Sri R. Krishnaswamy Naidu.
2. Sri R. Rajagopalaswamy.
3. Sri A. Thiagarajan.

(2) BILLS PASSED BY THE COUNCIL.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have also to announce to the House that the Madras Legislative Council have passed the following Bills without any amendment :—

1. The Madras Preservation of Private Forests (Amendment) Bill, 1963 (L.A. Bill No. 25 of 1963).

2. The Madras Cultivating Tenants Protection and Payment of Fair Rent (Extension to Added Territories) Bill, 1963 (L.A. Bill No. 23 of 1963).

3. The Madras Municipal Authorities (Term of Office and Election of Councillors) Bill, 1963 (L.A. Bill No. 26 of 1963).

VII.—STATEMENT BY MINISTER *re* CORRECTION TO ANSWER TO A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION UNDER Q. No. 394.

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to make the following correction to an answer to a supplementary question under question No. 394. From memory I gave an answer to a supplementary that Krishnagiri might be the headquarters for one of the bifurcated portions. I have now verified from the records that the Government have not yet taken a decision regarding the matter.

VIII.—GOVERNMENT RESOLUTION.

DRAFT RULE UNDER THE MADRAS MOTOR VEHICLES (TAXATION OF PASSENGERS AND GOODS) ACT, 1952.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I move—

" That the following draft of a rule proposed to be made by the Government of Madras under Section 4 (2) of the Madras Motor Vehicles (Taxation of Passengers and Goods) Act, 1952 (Madras Act XVI of 1952), amending the Schedule to the Act, be approved:

Draft rule.

In the said schedule to rule 2, the following proviso shall be added, namely—

" Provided that in respect of the vehicles operated by the Madras State Transport Department, it shall be permissible for that department to pay composition fee once a quarter by book adjustment on a consolidated application for grant or renewal of permission to pay the composition fee once a quarter. "